

# Taxicab Association of Connecticut

## Testimony of Marco Henry

President, Yellow Cab Co.

President, Taxicab Association of CT

## Transportation Committee

March 3, 2010

Good afternoon, Chairpersons Senator Defronzo and Representative Guerrera and members of the **Transportation Committee**, my name is **Marco Henry** I am the **President of the Yellow Cab Co.** and **President of the Taxicab Association of Connecticut**. The Taxicab Association represents the interests of the owners of both large and many small, independent, single taxicab companies in Connecticut.

I am here today to testify in support of:

**SB 342 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE FOR THE OPERATION OF A TAXICAB AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PENALTY FOR THE OPERATION OF A "GYPSY" CAB.**

There is no disputing the fact that the operation of Gypsy Cabs poses a serious risk to taxicab customers in Connecticut. Most if not all Gypsy Cabs operate with limited or no insurance, are not properly maintained and are not properly licensed by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. All legitimately licensed taxicab operators undergo an extensive criminal background checks.

Just as with school bus seatbelts, it is important that steps are taken to assure that the riding public is protected from unsafe practices. Currently, there is no provision for penalties for unsafe action directly against Gypsy Cab operators. For example, overcharging, operating a dirty cab and other DOT and DMV regulatory infractions.

Before this General Assembly is faced with the need to respond to tragedy it must not delay taking action to protect against the unsafe operation of taxicabs by Gypsy Cab operators. There needs to be more accountability by taxicab drivers.

In addition, we are calling upon this committee to implement the necessary statutory changes to ensure that the Department of Transportation take into consideration the effect that the issuance of new taxicab certificate have on existing certificate holders. Meeting the need and necessity standard can only be achieved if input from existing certificate holders is specifically permitted during the hearing process on new applications.

Our members, both large and small call upon this committee to vote favorably on these changes so that all consumers of taxicab services can be assured that Connecticut maintains the highest level of taxicab safety and reliability.

Thank you